Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) An electric-component handling device comprising:

a suction nozzle including (a) a nozzle body, and (b) a suction pipe extending from said nozzle body;

a fiducial mark disposed at a predetermined position relative to said suction pipe;

an image-taking device operable to take an image of an electric component held by suction by said suction pipe, and an image of said fiducial mark, in a longitudinal direction of said suction pipe;

a relative-movement device operable to move said image-taking device and said suction nozzle relative to each other, in at least a direction intersecting said longitudinal direction of said suction pipe, so as to pass a relative position therebetween at which said electric component held by said suction pipe and said fiducial mark are concurrently located within a field of vision of said image-taking device; and

an image data processing device operable to process said images of said electric component and said fiducial mark taken by said image-taking device, for obtaining a relative position between said fiducial mark and said electric component, and to obtain a position of said electric component relative to a nominal position of said suction pipe, on the basis of the obtained relative position between said fiducial mark and said electric component, and a known relative position between said fiducial mark and said nominal position of said suction pipe.

12. (Original) An electric-component handling device comprising:

a suction nozzle including (a) a nozzle body, and (b) a suction pipe extending from said nozzle body and a sucking end;

a fiducial mark disposed at a predetermined position relative to said suction pipe;

an image-taking device operable to take a set of images of an end face of said sucking end of said suction pipe and said fiducial mark, and a set of images of an electric component held by said suction pipe and said fiducial mark, in a longitudinal direction of said suction pipe;

a relative-movement device operable to move said image-taking device and said suction nozzle relative to each other, in at least a direction intersecting said longitudinal direction of said suction pipe, to a relative position therebetween at which said suction nozzle and said image-taking device are opposed to each other; and

an image data processing device operable to process said images of said end face of said suction pipe and said fiducial mark taken by said image-taking device, for detecting a relative position between said end face and said fiducial mark, and to process said images of said electric component and said fiducial mark, for determining a peripheral profile of said end face of said suction pipe which partially projects beyond a peripheral profile of said electric component, on the basis of the detected relative position between said end face and said fiducial mark, and obtaining a position of said electric component relative to a nominal position of said suction pipe, while taking account of the determined peripheral profile of said end face of said suction pipe.

13. (Original) An electric-component handling device comprising:

a suction nozzle including (a) a nozzle body, and (b) a suction pipe extending from said nozzle body and a sucking end;

a fiducial mark disposed at a predetermined position relative to said suction pipe;

an image-taking device operable to take an image of an end face of said sucking end of said suction pipe and said fiducial mark, in a longitudinal direction of said suction pipe;

a relative-movement device operable to move said image-taking device and said suction nozzle relative to each other, in at least a direction intersecting said longitudinal direction of said suction pipe, to a relative position therebetween at which said suction nozzle and said image-taking device are opposed to each other; and

an image data processing device operable to process said images of said end face of said suction pipe and said fiducial mark taken by said image-taking device, to obtain a relative position between said fiducial mark and said end face, and to detect a bending of said suction pipe on the basis of the obtained relative position between said fiducial mark and said end face.

14. (Currently Amended) An electric-component ~~component~~ handling device comprising:

a suction nozzle including (a) a nozzle body, and (b) a suction pipe extending from said nozzle body and a sucking end;

a fiducial mark disposed at a predetermined position relative to said suction pipe;

an image-taking device operable to take an image of said fiducial mark in a longitudinal direction of said suction pipe;

a relative-movement device operable to move said image-taking device and said suction nozzle relative to each other, in at least a direction intersecting said longitudinal

direction of said suction pipe, to a relative position therebetween at which said suction nozzle and said image-taking device are opposed to each other; and

an image data processing device operable to process said image of said fiducial mark taken by said image-taking device, to determine an angular position of said suction pipe.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The electric-component handling device according to claim 11, wherein said fiducial mark is disposed on said nozzle body such that said fiducial mark is spaced from said suction pipe in a radial direction of said suction pipe.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The electric-component handling device according to claim 12, wherein said fiducial mark is disposed on said nozzle body such that said fiducial mark is spaced from said suction pipe in a radial direction of said suction pipe.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The electric-component handling device according to claim 13, wherein said fiducial mark is disposed on said nozzle body such that said fiducial mark is spaced from said suction pipe in a radial direction of said suction pipe.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The electric-component handling device according to claim 14, wherein said fiducial mark is disposed on said nozzle body such that said fiducial mark is spaced from said suction pipe in a radial direction of said suction pipe.